

House Bill 116

By: Representatives Scott of the 153rd and Roberts of the 154th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Code Section 15-1-9.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to senior judge status, so as to provide that judges of the superior court who leave office but do not qualify for appointment as a senior judge under any other provision of law may apply to the Governor for appointment as a senior judge under certain circumstances; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 15-1-9.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to senior judge status, is amended by revising subsections (a) and (a.2) as follows:

"(a) The office of senior judge of the superior courts is created, and judges of the superior courts or former judges of the superior courts may become senior judges as follows:

(1) Any judge of the superior courts who retires pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 8 or Chapter 23 of Title 47 and any such judge who receives a disability retirement benefit under such chapter may become a senior judge beginning on the effective date of the judge's retirement; ~~and~~

(2) Any judge of the superior courts, whether or not ~~said~~ such judge is a member of the retirement system created by Chapter 23 of Title 47, who ceases holding office as a judge of the superior courts and who has at least ten years of service as a judge of the superior courts at the time of ceasing to hold office and who is not eligible for appointment to the office of senior judge under any other law of this state may become a senior judge; and

(3) Any judge of the superior courts, whether or not such judge is a member of the retirement system created by Chapter 23 of Title 47, who ceases holding office as a judge of the superior courts and who is not eligible for appointment to the office of senior judge under any other law of this state may become a senior judge by applying to the Governor and the Governor, in his or her discretion, determining that such judge is qualified to be a

1 senior judge and that it would be in the best interests of the state for such person to serve
2 as a senior judge."

3 "(a.2) Senior judge status as provided in this Code section shall be acquired by a qualified
4 former judge's applying to the Governor for appointment as senior judge. The Governor shall
5 appoint each qualified applicant under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) and under
6 subsection (a.1) of this Code section as a senior judge. The Governor shall be authorized to
7 appoint such applicants under paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of this Code section as the
8 Governor finds to be qualified and in the best interests of the state to serve as senior judges."

9 **SECTION 2.**

10 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
11 without such approval.

12 **SECTION 3.**

13 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.